

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT

Jacobs Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2006

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DEFIBRILLATOR BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR Jacobs: “This law will save lives.”

LANSING – Governor Jennifer Granholm has signed into law a bill that will require defibrillators in all health club facilities. The bill was unanimously approved by the Michigan Senate. The bill, PA 23, sponsored by Sen. Jacobs, will assure that facilities conspicuously display the life-saving equipment, which administers an electric charge to correct rapid and irregular heart contractions. The new law also requires health clubs to have an emergency plan in place in case of sudden medical situations.

Sen. Jacobs became aware of the need through the untimely death of a constituent. In 2002, Greg Bolak, 49, a Ferndale elementary school principal, was playing basketball at a local health facility when he suffered a heart attack. Bolak’s son, Ted, had just arrived at the facility to join his father in a game. He watched his father die before emergency personnel arrived on the scene. Greg’s life might have been saved had there been a defibrillator in the facility.

After Greg’s death, his wife Karen, a university professor, and son Ted were shocked to learn that there were no legal requirements mandating lifesaving equipment or formal emergency plans in health facilities. That’s when their efforts to require defibrillators began in earnest.

“Hopefully, the passage of this bill will assure that no other family will suffer the loss that we did,” Karen Bolak said.

“Sadly, this legislation comes too late for Greg Bolak, but hopefully it will help prevent other needless deaths,” Sen. Jacobs said. “His legacy is that this should never happen to another through lack of the necessary life-saving equipment.”

Jacobs is currently working on a complementary bill that will require all first-responders to emergencies to carry defibrillators. Unfortunately, many ambulances and other emergency vehicles do not carry these essential life-saving devices.

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